

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 1-5, 8-10 and 12. Claims 1-10 and 12 are currently pending, with claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 being the independent claims. Claim 6 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the February 23, 2006 Office Action, independent claim 6, and dependent claim 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subjected matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims in a manner that is believed to address each specific rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In the February 23, 2006 Office Action, independent claim 6, and dependent claim 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,631,896 ("*Kawase*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,083,009 ("*Bickford*") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,515,403 ("*Sloan*"). For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the present application are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitation "means for activating a pseudo frame signal for maintaining data transmission between the outdoor unit and an indoor unit if a loss of the clock signal occurs". Support for this limitation may be found, for example, at pg. 6, lines 6-9 and pg. 7, lines 2-3 and 8-10 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

As indicated by the Examiner (pg. 5 of the Office Action) *Kawase* and *Bickford*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest "indicating a change of a clock signal by sufficiently accurately cophasal clock signals." *Sloan* has been cited to provide what *Kawase* and *Bickford* lack. However, the combination of *Kawase*, *Bickford* and *Sloan* fails to achieve the invention as recited amended independent claim 6. *Sloan* discloses circuitry for aligning first and second redundant timing signals and switching therebetween (see Abstract). *Sloan* (Abstract, lines 4-9) states, "the circuitry includes a selecting and switching circuitry for receiving the first and second redundant timing signals and designating one of the redundant timing signals as ACTIVE and the other as INACTIVE, and providing the ACTIVE timing signal as an output timing reference signal".

The Office Action (pg. 5 states):

Sloan et al. teach a method for smooth clock alignment and switch by indicating a change of a clock signal (active clock) after waiting for a sufficiently accurately cophasal clock signals (phase detection and alignment) (see Fig. 3, Col. 4, lines 29-53).

Sloan fails to teach the invention recited in amended independent claim 6. *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 29-53; Fig. 3) teaches a block diagram of an active clock multiplexer and phase detector circuitry 50. *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 31-34) states, "a multiplexer 100 receives the output from delay path A and delay path B and selects one as the ACTIVE CLOCK as controlled by the ACTIVE CLOCK SELECT signal from active clock select circuitry 42". *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 34-39) further states, "the ACTIVE CLOCK has been subjected to a delay path having a preferred delay value. The same outputs from both delay paths A and B are provided to a main phase detector 102, which determines the phase relationship between the ACTIVE CLOCK and the INACTIVE CLOCK". *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 39-42) teaches that the main phase detector 102 generates UP/DOWN A, UP/DOWN B, or PHASE LOCK STATUS signals, depending on the detected phase relationship. *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 42-46) states "the UP/DOWN signal is used by the corresponding inactive delay path to increase or decrease the propagation delay of the path, as well as to keep the reference clocks from locking with a 180 degree phase difference". *Sloan* (col. 4, lines 46-49) states, "if the ACTIVE CLOCK and the INACTIVE CLOCK are substantially synchronous in phase, then the PHASE LOCK STATUS signal so indicates and no further adjustment to the path delays are necessary". Thus, *Sloan* teaches that delay paths are adjusted based on the phase relationship between an active clock and an inactive clock.

However, *Sloan* fails to teach or suggest a "means for activating a pseudo frame signal for maintaining data transmission between the outdoor unit and an indoor unit if a loss of the clock signal occurs," as recited in amended claim 6. The outdoor units 33, 36, 39, 42 comprise means 33A, 36A, 39A and 42A for creating and outputting the signal that indicates the mode of the synchronization in the clock signal reception and the error sum of the data to be received. The claimed outdoor units activate the PF (pseudo frame) signal when a loss of the lock associated with the clock signal CLK1, CLK2 that is to be received begins to occur. The pseudo frame signal permits the data transmission between the outdoor unit (OU) and the indoor unit (IU) to be maintained, even if the OU does not receive a proper clock signal. *Sloan* fails to teach or suggest features that permit such a function to be achieved. Thus, *Sloan* fails to cure the

deficiency of the system achieved by the combination of *Kawase* and *Bickford*. Consequently, independent claim 6 is patentable over the combination of *Kawase*, *Bickford* and *Sloan*, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is in order, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In view of the patentability of independent claims 1, 3, 6 and 8, for the reasons set forth above, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 12 are all patentable over the prior art.


Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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